

**PROVINCE OF QUEBEC**

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE SIR WILFRID LAURIER SCHOOL BOARD HELD ON MARCH 26, 2014**

A regular meeting of the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board was held in the boardroom of the Administration Centre, 235 montée Lesage, Rosemere, QC on Wednesday, March 26, 2014.

Present: Commissioners Nick Milas, Chairman; Nazario Facchino, Vice-Chairman; Georges Benoit, Steve Bletas, Robert Dixon, Guy Gagnon, Steve Kmec, Elio Lattanzio, Emilio Migliozi, Steve Mitchell, Albina Pace, Merle Parkinson, William Pollock, and Nancy Rupnik; Parent Commissioners Roberto Bomba and Angela Martorana; and Stephanie Vucko, Director General.

Also present were: Eileen Kelly, Assistant Director General; Johanne Brabant, Secretary General; Gaëlle Absolonne, Director of School Organization; Robin Bennett, Director of Information Technology; France D'Aoust, Director of Financial Resources; Jérôme Dionne, Director of Material Resources; Frédéric Greschner, Director of Complementary Services; Richard Greschner, Director of Human Resources; Tina Korb, Director of Educational Services; and Jocelyne Thompson-Ness, Administrative Assistant. Several other persons were also in the audience.

Absent with regret: Commissioners Mario Di Domenico, Peter MacLaurin, Grace Nesi, Mike Pizzola and Edward Turchyniak.

The Chairman called the meeting to order.

**TIME: 19:30 hours**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**1.0 ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA:**

**CC-140326-CA-0087**

Commissioner Steve Bletas MOVED THAT the agenda be approved as presented in document #SWLSB-2014/03/26-CA-001.

**Carried unanimously**

The Director General noted that at a previous Council meeting she had made a comment that may have offended some members of the Council and apologized for such.

**2.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**CC-140326-CA-0088**

Commissioner Steve Kmec MOVED THAT the minutes of the REGULAR meeting of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board held on 2014-02-26 having been received by all members prior to this meeting, be approved as written.

**Carried unanimously**

**3.0 QUESTION PERIOD**

The Chairman thanked Mary Casale, a parent from Mother Teresa Junior High School, for her questions and went on to explain that the Council of Commissioners and the school board team have responded to these questions on several occasions, at the Council and during the pre-discussion groups involving parent representatives of the Laval high schools, during December presentations at the Governing Board meetings of the 4 Laval high schools and at the Parents Committee.

He assured Ms. Casale that there is no conspiracy to force anything on the Laval community. E-mail pushes are very demanding on the school board's technology systems and are used only in special circumstances. The information is provided through the school board web site to allow easy access to as many stakeholders as possible. The FAQ (frequently asked questions) section of the web site for the Laval high schools answers a lot of the questions she had submitted.

He further noted that the school teams are already working on plans to ensure a smooth transition for the students and staff.

Some of the decisions regarding the change of address remain under the direction of the Governing Board of each school, i.e. uniforms etc. Transportation is a service that has already been organized and there will be no extra charges to the students or the school.

In response to other questions from Ms. Casale, the Director General noted:

- preliminary staffing has shown that all but one program within the 4 Laval high schools will continue to operate for the 2014-2015 school year;
- the entry exams for Secondary I students, that have chosen ALP and ATOMS as their concentration, will be held during the month of April;
- Governing Board meetings are public meetings as per the Education Act (R.S.Q., Chapter I-13.3) and a reminder will be given to school administration on this;
- the consultation document for the Laval high schools will be posted on the school board's Web site tomorrow morning;
- there will be public consultation meetings on three different evenings during the month of April;
- there has been a lot of information on the Laval high schools e-pushed to Laval parents and verifications will be made into why some parents with e-mail are not receiving this information; and
- all of the Laval high schools held an open house during the month of January and these were advertised in the local newspapers and through an e-push to grade 6 parents. Additional open houses will be held in August 2014 but if someone wishes to visit a school before that time they are to call the school and make an appointment with the school administration.

The Director General also advised Ms. Casale that the Assistant Director General would be pleased to meet with her after the meeting to respond to her more specific questions.

In response to a request from the Chairperson of the Parents Committee, the Chairman granted, for this evening only, the privilege of asking her question during this question period even though it had not been submitted in writing.

In response to the question brought forth by the Chairperson of the Parents Committee, the Chairman advised that given that the letter sent to him requesting a meeting came from a lawyer it was referred to the Secretary General for response after consulting with the school board's in-house legal counsel.

Ms. Maccarone requested that the Chairman reconsider the Parents Committee's request for a meeting to discuss concerns with the implementation of the change of address for the Laval high schools.

The Chairman noted that his door is always open to any person or groups that wish to meet to discuss an issue but due to the fact that the correspondence was received from a lawyer the issue cannot be addressed publically as it is in the hands of the lawyers.

## 4.0 REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN:

### 4.1 *Chairman's Report:*

The Chairman presented his monthly report noting visits to Laurentia, Pierre Elliott Trudeau and Ste-Adèle Elementary Schools, attendance at a Vernissage at Morin Heights Elementary School and the Variety Show at Laurentian Regional High School. He extended his appreciation to these schools for the invitations.

### 4.2 *Director General's Report:*

The Director General presented her monthly report noting:

- storm watch e-pushes to parents for inclement weather;
- McCaig Elementary School's participation in the Concours "Chantez pour Sainte-Junstine";
- the use of hands on and smart technology when teaching math;
- preparations for the Laurier Gala & Star Fest and the auditions that are taking place to select student talent for the Star Fest portion of the event;
- "Partners for Life", a depression awareness and prevention program at Laurier Senior High school for secondary IV students;
- Terry Fox Elementary School's initiative to show the similarities between school and Olympic values, and
- John F. Kennedy's digital story telling using iPads and the "Stop Motion" application.

The Director General advised the Council that she and the Director of Material Resources had gone to Québec on March 18, 2014 to meet with the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS) English sector and French sector Assistant Deputy Ministers to discuss the request received from Commission scolaire des Affluents to appropriate Franklin Hill Elementary School or build on the property because it is in desperate need for a school in that area of Repentigny. The Commission scolaire des Affluents had met with the MELS to present their case prior to this meeting.

During the meeting at the MELS, the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board advised that, while open to having a meeting with the MELS and the Commission scolaire des Affluents, it is not interested in ceding the school nor having another school constructed on the land.

She further advised that the MELS has approved the replacement of the two existing and the installation of two additional portables at Twin Oaks Elementary School.

The Council entered into discussion and the Director General answered questions as follows:

- a point was made at the meeting with the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS) concerning the bold move by Commission scolaire des Affluents to prepare schematics showing a new school on the land of Franklin Hill Elementary School;
- the Football, Hockey and Soccer Programs will be maintained as the numbers required were achieved;
- sports concentration programs take place during the school day while school team sports are after school activities. What was presented by the Principals concerning the concentration programs was accepted as presented;
- the sports concentration programs allow students who are already a part of an elite sports team to augment their training. These are not GMAA sanctioned sports teams.

## 5.0 BUSINESS ARISING

### 5.1 *Laval High Schools:*

The Assistant Director General provided an update on the Laval high schools noting:

- work has commenced to move the libraries;
- cabling for both of the buildings is in progress;
- signage for the buildings has been ordered;
- Information Technology is to evaluate and identify computers and photocopiers to be moved;
- interactive white boards on hand are to be installed and the purchase of additional interactive white boards is being considered;
- the lab requirements have been met and there will be 8 labs;
- the elevator project for 2323 Daniel-Johnson is currently out for tender;
- the staffing process is underway;
- Summer School will be held at the 3200, boul. du Souvenir building;
- A recent staff meeting with senior teachers went very well;
- welcome activities are being planned by students and staff; and
- special needs initiatives to take place during the months of May and June.

The Director General noted that the consultation package on Phase II of the reorganization of the Laval high schools will be available tomorrow morning on the Corporate Web site. Each Laval school will receive a paper copy for display purposes should anyone wish to view a physical copy. She expressed her gratitude to the Directorate team, the school Administration and the Teachers for their participation and input for Phase I and II of the reorganization of the Laval high schools.

In response to a question from Commissioner Steve Bletas, the Director General noted that the Multi Service Centre is partially funded under the Québec-Canada Entente.

## 6.0 DECISION ITEMS:

### 6.1 HUMAN RESOURCES

#### 6.1.1 *Selection Committee - Assistant Director of Complementary Services:*

The Director General advised the Council that the position of Assistant Director of Complementary Services needs to be posted as the person currently acting as interim has decided to return to her position as a school administrator.

The Director of Human Resources indicated that interviews for this position are scheduled for April 8, 2014.

The Chairman indicated that he had received an e-mail from Commissioner Edward Turchyniak expressing an interest in being on this Selection Committee.

The Vice-Chairman of Council and Commissioner Nancy Rupnik volunteered to be on the Selection Committee while Commissioner Guy Gagnon and Parent Commissioner Angela Martorana volunteered to be alternates.

There were no other volunteers or nominations.

## CC-140326-HR-0089

WHEREAS the Assistant Director of Complementary Services resigned effective September 13, 2013;

WHEREAS the position was posted on March 20, 2014 and will close on April 3, 2014;

WHEREAS, in accordance with section 5.2 of policy #2000-HR-02: Regulating the Working Conditions of Management Staff Represented by the Sir Wilfrid Laurier Section of the Association des cadres scolaires du Québec (ACSQ) OR section 5.4 of policy #2000-HR-01: Regulating the Working Conditions of Management Staff represented by the Sir Wilfrid Laurier Administrators' Association (SWLAA), the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board is required to form a Selection Committee for the engagement of an Assistant Director of Complementary Services;

WHEREAS this Selection Committee must include three commissioners;

Commissioner Guy Gagnon MOVED THAT the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board establish a Selection Committee for the selection of an Assistant Director of Complementary Services.

AND THAT this Selection Committee be comprised of the following:

Nazario Facchino	Director General or Delegate
Nancy Rupnik	Director of Human Resources or Delegate
Edward Turchyniak	Director of Complementary Services
Georges Benoit (Alternate)	Administrator named by ACSQ and/or
Angela Martorana (Alternate)	SWLAA

**Carried unanimously**

## **6.2 COMMUNICATIONS & CORPORATE AFFAIRS**

### **6.2.1 Cession of Land – Ville de St-Jérôme:**

The Director of Material Resources provided background information noting that after 70 years the school board needs to have clear title to this piece of land at Laurentia Elementary School in St-Jérôme

In response to a question from Commissioner Steve Kmec, the Director of Material Resources advised that the school has submitted a proposal to install a playground on this land.

#### **CC-140326-CA-0090**

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners adopted resolution # CC-120523-MR-0145, authorizing the exchange of part of lot #2141279 in exchange for part of lot #2663452 with the Ville de Saint-Jérôme;

WHEREAS it has become apparent that the land was never legally transferred to said Protestant school board, now known as the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board;

WHEREAS resolution #CC-120523-MR-0145 is null and void given that the land was never legally transferred;

WHEREAS the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board mandated François Venne, Notary, to establish a clear title to this land;

WHEREAS, as per a letter dated October 2, 2013 from Françoise Venne, Notary, on October 4, 1944, the Ville de Saint-Jérôme and the Protestant school board located in St-Jérôme entered into an agreement to cede the aforesaid land to said Protestant school board;

WHEREAS part of lot #2141279 is now known as lots #5243137 and #5243138;

WHEREAS an act of cession is required by the Ville de Saint-Jérôme and the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board in order to establish a clear title to this land;

Commissioner Albina Pace MOVED THAT the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board approve the act authorizing the cession of lots #5243137 and #5243138 from the Ville de Saint-Jérôme to the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board.

AND THAT the Chairman, and in his absence or with his knowledge the Vice-Chairman, as well as the Director General, and in her absence or with her knowledge the Assistant Director General, be authorized to sign all documentation concerning this act of cession.

**Carried unanimously**

### **6.2.2 Exchange of Land – Ville de St-Jérôme:**

#### **CC-140326-CA-0091**

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board approved resolution #CC-140326-CA-0090, approving the act authorizing the cession of lots #5243137 and #5243138 from the Ville de Saint-Jérôme to the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board and to establish a clear title;

WHEREAS the Ville de Saint-Jérôme wishes to reconfigure du Carillon Street;

WHEREAS the Ville de Saint-Jérôme will require lots #5243137 and #5243138, property of the school board, beside Laurentia Elementary School in order to reconfigure said street;

WHEREAS the Ville de Saint-Jérôme has approached the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board to acquire this property in exchange for lot #5243136 (formerly part of lot #2663452);

WHEREAS the land acquired by the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board in this exchange will be used for Laurentia Elementary School's playground project;

WHEREAS, due to the value of the properties being exchanged, no authorization is required from the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS) to proceed with the exchange;

Commissioner Robert Dixon MOVED THAT the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board authorize the exchange of lots #5243137 and #5243138, next to Laurentia Elementary school, for lot #5243136; with the Ville de Saint-Jérôme.

AND THAT the Chair, and in his absence or with his knowledge the Vice-Chair, as well as the Director General, and in his absence or with his knowledge the Assistant Director General, be authorized to sign all documentation concerning this exchange of land.

**Carried unanimously**

On behalf of the Council of Commissioners, the Chairman welcomed the new Director of Material Resources, Jérôme Dionne, to the table.

### **6.2.3 Engagement – Student Ombudsman:**

The Director General advised the Council that the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board (SWLSB) will continue to share the services of a Student Ombudsman with the English Montreal School Board (EMSB) and given that, the contract of the current Student Ombudsman has concluded, the position was posted and interviews held with a joint Selection Committee who have come forth with a recommendation.

The Secretary General advised the Council that the recommendation of the Selection Committee is to engage Chantal Perreault as the new Student Ombudsman for the SWLSB and the EMSB.

Commissioner Nancy Rupnik, who represented the SWLSB on the Selection Committee, advised that Ms. Perreault is a Lawyer, is fluently bilingual, has been a member of a Governing Board, a School Commissioner and has experience as an Ombudsman.

**CC-140326-HR-0092**

WHEREAS the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board adopted resolution #CC-131127-CA-0057, which approved the continued partnership with the English Montreal School Board for the sharing of the services of a Student Ombudsman and authorized the posting for the position via invitation;

WHEREAS the position was posted and interviews were subsequently held on March 17 and March 20, 2014;

Commissioner Nancy Rupnik MOVED THAT, on the recommendation of the Selection Committee, the Council of Commissioners of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board engage **Chantal Perreault**, as Student Ombudsman, effective April 1, 2014 to April 1, 2017.

AND THAT the remuneration attached to the position of Student Ombudsman be prorated, respectively, in accordance with the student population of each school board.

FURTHER THAT the Chairman, and in his absence or with his knowledge the Vice-Chairman, as well as the Director General, and in her absence or with her knowledge the Assistant Director General, be authorized to sign all documentation concerning this service.

**Carried unanimously**

#### **6.2.4 Naming of Appeals Review Committee:**

The Director General advised the Council that an official request for the reconsideration of a decision affecting a student has been received and that the Appeals Review Committee would be convened to a meeting.

It was noted that the Appeals Review Committee was named at the special meeting of Council held on June 19, 2013.

## **7.0 INFORMATION ITEMS**

### **7.1 SWL Foundation:**

The Chairman, in the absence of Commissioner Edward Turchyniak, advised that auditions had been held for the Laurier Gala & Star Fest to be held on May 29, 2014 at Le Palace in Laval. There were 90 very talented Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board students who tried out for the 13 available spots.

### **7.2 Parent Commissioners Report**

Parent Commissioner Roberto Bomba advised the Council that the Parents Committee's priority at this time is the reorganization of the Laval high schools and that at a special meeting on February 27, 2014, a letter was drafted to the Chairman of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board requesting a meeting to discuss concerns in a professional manner, a request that was refused therefore, a lawyers letter was sent. He asked that the Chairman reconsider the meeting so that legal action will not be taken.

The Chairman indicated that this issue was addressed earlier during this meeting.

In response to a question from Parent Commissioner Angela Martorana, the Director General noted that the plans for the special needs students are contained in the consultation package.

Commissioner Steve Mitchell asked that the school board consider that any training sessions for Commissioners be recorded and made available in an on-line format for viewing by those unable to attend workshops.

The Council entered into discussion about the receipt and distribution of the lawyer's letter from the Parents Committee and it was noted that when any legal document is received it is automatically handled by the Secretary General's office and is only available for distribution once the in-house legal counsel has reviewed it.

In response to a question from Commissioner Steve Kmec, the Chairman noted that the Central Quebec School Board and the Quebec School Boards Association (QESBA) are following up on the English education for military families.

Commissioner Steve Mitchell indicated that when the Chairman of the Executive Committee is away he, as Vice-Chairman of the Executive Committee, is the acting chairman.

### **7.3 Report of the QESBA:**

The Chairman reminded Commissioners that the Quebec School Boards Association (QESBA) Winter Professional Development Session would take place March 28 & 29, 2014 in Boucherville.

### **8.0 QUESTION PERIOD:**

In response to a question from Lisa Chartier, Chair of Laval Liberty High School Governing Board, the Director of School Organization & Transportation advised that registration, as of earlier today, is as follows:

Laurier Senior HS	Laval Junior HS	Laval Liberty HS	Mother Teresa Junior HS
982	405	741	736

### **9.0 CORRESPONDENCE:**

The Chairman drew attention to correspondence in the package.

### **10.0 VARIA:**

The Director General indicated that it would be a good idea for the Council to name two (2) alternates to the Appeals Review Committee.

Commissioners Georges Benoit and Guy Gagnon volunteered to be alternates.

There were no other volunteers or nominations.

In response to questions from Commissioner Steve Kmec, the Director General advised that the Returning Officer for the November 2, 2014 school elections is already on task and her coordinates are available on the school board's Web site to anyone seeking information on the school elections.

The Council entered into discussion on parts of the electoral process for school elections and it was noted that one can apply now to be authorized as a candidate but that the nomination process will only take place in the Fall.

The Returning Officer is available to answer any questions Commissioners may have concerning the school election process.

### **11.0 ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING:**

Commissioner Georges Benoit MOVED adjournment of the meeting.

**Carried unanimously**

**TIME: 20:46 hours**

**NEXT MEETING ⇒ REGULAR ⇒ 2014-04-23**